

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, June 19, 2017

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Carol DeVerney, Mary Owen, Larry Heady, Kassie Helgerson, Babette Sandman, Donna Newgren-Isaacson, Amber Lightfeather

Absent: Tina Olson

Staff: Kathy Wilson, Kate Van Daele

Note: Per the request of the DIC members two Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes – bezhig (“one”) indicates who made the motion and niizho (“two”) indicates who seconded the motion.

1. Call to Order, Introduction

- Sandman called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Helgerson bezhig/ DeVerney niizho to approve the May 15, 2017 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 7:0**

3. Public Comment

- none

4. New Business

- Feast & Forum- Sandman gave a summary of what the Feast & Forum is for the new members and the topics discussed the last couple of years. Commissioners discussed potential themes for this year’s Feast and all agreed to think about it more for the next meeting.

5. Action Items

- Duluth Public Arts Commission (DPAC) – DeVerney and Sandman want to meet with a DPAC member outside of a regular meeting or set up a scheduled time to attend a regular meeting so they do not miss any of the Indigenous Commission meeting.
- Ni Mi Win – Phoebe Davis and Jeremy Davis have been working with local nonprofit LISC and Debbie Isabell-Nelson to plan a Picnic and Pow Wow in Morgan Park. They talked about their planning efforts and handed out a flyer for the event. The Indigenous Commissioners requested some revisions to the language used on the poster and the roles of community members in the Pow Wow. The distinction was made that this is not a replacement for Ni Mi Win and everyone agreed that the revival of the Ni Min Win Pow Wow should follow the original charter. The Picnic and Pow Wow is meant to be an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Morgan Park community members to come together and learn about each other’s cultures, and as a basis to get publicity for and to get grants and fundraise for Ni Mi Win. P. Davis will be broadcasting the event over the radio. The Davis’ worked with the Commission during the meeting to make the changes to the poster and the planned Picnic and Pow Wow. (Isaacson left at 6:30pm; Helgerson left at 6:53pm)
- American Lung Association (ALA) Campaign – Owen handed out the resolution she drafted in support of the ALA’s campaign to restrict youth access to flavored tobacco products. Heady appreciated how carefully crafted the language was and that it respected that tobacco is a part

of the traditional spiritual life. Heady bezhig/ DeVerney niizho to approve the resolution as written by Owen. **Motion passed 5:0**

- Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) – Sandman bezhig/ Owen niizho to table Heady’s discussion of Local Sacred Site Designation until August meeting. **Motion passed 5:0**
- Subcommittees
 - Education – Owen attended an Education Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC) meeting. The state did not include Duluth in Desegregation funding, but they ended up reversing that decision. Subcommittee members attended the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee has come up with a list of problems and solutions and the this DIC Education Subcommittee intends to help the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee bolster their list of solutions with metrics.
 - Police – no update
 - Opioids – DeVerney will meet with Commander of the Drug Free Task Force to learn about the current process.
 - Leadership – There is a need to get younger people involved.
 - Photo Voice – Date set: July 27, 2017 at Powless Center

6. Old Business

- Sobriety Feast – A community member, J. Davis, noted that the June meeting was the greatest turn out yet and her volunteered to make flyers to help advertise the Feast. Sandman is still looking for funding for the speakers and drummers.
- Gitchi o’de Akiing – Babette and Councilor Sipress have been meeting with business owners. Sanman also met with the park designer, Kent Worely. Worley said his son’s last words were “Lake Place” so the park name has special significance to him. Sandman said they will work “Lake Place” into the Gitchi o’de Akiing sign in honor of his son. Sandman said the City is getting a consultant to help the DIC create a proposal and soon the call will go out to artists for the sign design.

7. Announcements/Adjournment:

- DeVerney has been appointed the Duluth representation to the American Indian Mental Health Council by Fond du Lac.
- Owen bezhig/DeVerney niizho to adjourn meeting. **Motion passed 5:0.** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

8. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is August 21, 2017 at 5:30 PM.